

A CATALYST FOR ETHYLENE HOMO- AND CO-POLYMERIZATION

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Technical Field1. FIELD OF THE INVENTION

5

The present invention relates to a catalyst for homo-polymerization or co-polymerization of ethylene, or more particularly to a high-activity titanium solid complex catalyst supported in a carrier containing magnesium, ~~said the~~ catalyst showing high catalytic activity, high bulk density, and high hydrogen sensitivity.

10

Background of the Invention2. DESCRIPTION OF THE RELATED ART

15

20

25

Catalysts containing magnesium for polymerization or co-polymerization of ethylene are known to have very high catalytic activities and to accord good bulk density, which are in turn suitable for liquid phase or gas phase polymerization. By liquid phase polymerization of ethylene, it denotes the polymerization process performed in such medium of bulk ethylene, isopentane, or hexane, and as for the important characteristics in consideration of the applicability of the catalyst used in this process, they are as follows: high activity, bulk density, the amount of molecules of low molecular weight dissolved in a medium, etc. Furthermore, in most of these manufacturing processes, hydrogen is used to control the molecular weight. The changes in the molecular weight (hereinafter hydrogen sensitivity) according to the amount of hydrogen is another characteristic of a catalyst, which is different per catalyst. The catalyst with high hydrogen sensitivity can control the molecular weight by using less amount of hydrogen at the time of the application of the process. As such, it provides more leeway with respect to the operation of the process.

30

Many of the titanium-based catalysts containing magnesium for olefin polymerization, and the manufacturing methods thereof have been reported. Especially, many processes making use of magnesium solutions to obtain olefin polymerization catalysts of good bulk density have been known. There is a means of obtaining a magnesium solution by reacting magnesium compounds with such electron donors as alcohol, amine, cyclic ether, or organic carboxylic acid in the presence of a hydrocarbon solvent. As for the cases of use of alcohol, they are disclosed

in US Patent Nos. 4,330,649, and 5,106,807. Further, the methods for production of catalysts containing magnesium by reacting a liquid magnesium solution with a halogenated compoundhalide compound such as titanium tetrachloride are well known. Such catalysts provide good bulk density, but there is much yet to be improved with respect to their catalytic activities and hydrogen sensitivity. In US Patent Nos. 4,477,639 and 4,518,706, a cyclic ether, tetrahydrofuran was used as a solvent of the magnesium compound.

US Patent Nos. 4,847,227, 4,816,433, 4,829,037, 4,970,186, and 5,130,284 claimed the methods of producing olefin polymerization catalysts of good bulk density, with superior polymerization activity due to the reaction of a titanium chloride compound with an electron donor compound such as magnesium alkoxide, dialkyl phthalate, and phthaloyl chloride.

US Patent No. 5,459,116 reports the method of producing supported titanium solid catalysts by means of contact-reacting a titanium compound and a magnesium solution containing an ester having at least one hydroxy group as an electron donor. By using this method, it is possible to obtain a catalyst of superior polymerization activity and bulk density. However, there remain things to be improved with respect to hydrogen sensitivity.

US Patent No. 5,869,418 shows the method of increasing hydrogen sensitivity by using a dialkoxyphenylalkane in the propylene polymerization as an external electron donor, and the advantages of such method. However, the above effects were obtained by using the external electron donor in addition to the solid catalyst, and also it is limited to polymerization and copolymerization of propylene.

~~Summary of the Invention~~SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

As shown above, there is a need for the development of a new catalyst for homopolymerization or co-polymerization of ethylene for producing polymers with the following conditions: simple manufacturing process, high polymerization activity, high bulk density for polymers by means of controlling the catalyst particles, and high hydrogen sensitivity. In the present invention, therefore, it is intended to provide a method for producing, from low-cost compounds via a simple process, a catalyst having an excellent catalytic activity, and superior

hydrogen sensitivity, capable of producing polymers of good bulk density. Further, the specific production process of catalysts and the steps thereof as disclosed in the present invention have never been reported in the prior art.

Consequently, the objective of the present invention is to provide a new catalyst solid component for homo-polymerization or co-polymerization of ethylene, said catalyst having superior catalytic activity and hydrogen sensitivity, capable of producing polymers of high bulk density. More specifically, the objective of the present invention lies in providing a catalyst solid component for homo-polymerization or co-polymerization of ethylene, having a superior hydrogen sensitivity, wherein the form of the catalyst particles are controlled therein.

Another objective of the present invention is to provide a simple process for producing a catalyst for homo-polymerization or co-polymerization of ethylene.

Still other objectives and the utility of the present invention will become apparent as references are made with respect to the following descriptions and the claims thereto.

~~Detailed Description of the Preferred Embodiments~~ DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

The catalyst of superior catalytic activity and hydrogen sensitivity, capable of producing polymers having high bulk density as provided in the present invention, is produced by a simple yet efficient manufacturing process, which comprises (i) preparing a magnesium solution by contact-reacting a ~~halogenated-magnesium~~ magnesium halide compound, with an alcohol, (ii) reacting the same with an ester compound containing at least one hydroxy group and a silicon compound containing an alkoxy group, and (iii) producing a solid titanium catalyst by adding a titanium compound and a silicon compound.

Types of ~~halogenated-magnesium~~ magnesium halide compounds used in the present invention are as follows: ~~di-halogenated-magnesium~~ magnesium dihalides such as magnesium chloride, magnesium iodide, magnesium fluoride, and magnesium bromide; ~~alkylmagnesium~~ alkylmagnesium halides such as methylmagnesium halide, ethylmagnesium halide, propylmagnesium halide, butylmagnesium halide, isobutylmagnesium halide, hexylmagnesium

halide, amylmagnesium halide; alkoxymagnesium halides such as methoxymagnesium halide, ethoxymagnesium halide, isopropoxymagnesium halide, butoxymagnesium halide, octoxymagnesium halide; and aryloxymagnesium halides such as phenoxymagnesium halide and methyl-phenoxymagnesium halide. Of the above magnesium compounds, two or more
5 compounds can be used in a mixture. Further, the above magnesium compounds can be effectively used in the form of a complex compound with other metals.

Of the compounds listed above, some can be represented by a simple formula, but the others cannot be so represented depending on the production methods of magnesium compounds.
10 In the latter cases, it can be generally regarded as a mixture of some of the listed compounds. For example, the following compounds can be used in the present invention: such compounds obtained by reacting magnesium compounds with ~~polysiloxane~~polysiloxane compounds, silane
compounds containing halogen, ester, or alcohol; and such compounds obtained by reacting
magnesium metals with alcohol, phenol, or ether in the presence of halosilane, phosphorus
15 pentachloride, or thionyl chloride. However, the preferable magnesium compounds are magnesium halides, especially magnesium chloride or alkylmagnesium chloride, preferably those having an alkyl group of 1 ~ 10 carbons; alkoxymagnesium chlorides, preferably those having 1 ~ 10 carbons; and aryloxymagnesium chlorides, preferably those having 6 ~ 20 carbons. The magnesium solution used in the present invention is made by dissolving the
20 aforementioned compounds with alcohol as a solvent in the presence or absence of a hydrocarbon solvent.

As to the types of hydrocarbon solvents used in the present invention, they include aliphatic hydrocarbons such as pentane, hexane, heptane, octane, decane, and kerosene; alicyclic
25 hydrocarbons such as ~~cyclobenzene, methylecyclobenzene~~cyclopentane, methylecyclopentane,
cyclohexane, and methylcyclohexane; aromatic hydrocarbons such as benzene, toluene, xylene, ethylbenzene, cumene, and cymene; and halogenated hydrocarbons such as dichloropropane, dichloroethylene, trichloroethylene, carbon tetrachloride, and chlorobenzene.

30 When a magnesium compound is converted into a magnesium solution, alcohol is used in the presence or absence of the aforementioned hydrocarbons. The types of alcohol include those containing 1 ~ 20 carbon atoms such as methanol, ethanol, propanol, butanol, pentanol,

hexanol, octanol, decanol, dodecanol, octadecyl alcohol, benzyl alcohol, phenylethyl alcohol, isopropyl benzyl alcohol, and cumyl-alcohol, although alcohols containing 1 ~ 12 carbon atoms are preferable. The average size of a target catalyst and its particle distribution can vary according to the type of alcohol, the total contents, types of magnesium compounds, and the ratio of magnesium to alcohol, etc. Nevertheless, the total amount of alcohol required to obtain the magnesium solution is at least 0.5 mol per each mole of the magnesium compound, preferably about 1.0 ~ 20 mol, or more preferably about 2.0 ~ 10 mol.

The reaction of a magnesium compound with alcohol for producing magnesium solution is preferably carried out in the presence of hydrocarbon. The reaction temperature, while variable depending on the type and the amount of alcohol, is at least -25°C, preferably -10 ~ 200°C, or more preferably about 0 ~ 150°C. It is preferable to carry out the reaction for about 15 minutes ~ 5 hours, preferably for about 30 minutes ~ 4 hours.

Of the electron donors used in the present invention, the ester compounds containing at least one hydroxy group include unsaturated aliphatic acid esters having at least one hydroxy group such as, 2-hydroxy ethylacrylate, 2-hydroxy ethylmethacrylate, 2-hydroxypropyl acrylate, 2-hydroxypropylmethacrylate, 4-hydroxy butylacrylate, pentaerithritol triacrylate; aliphatic monoesters or polyesters containing at least one hydroxy group such as 2-hydroxy ethyl acetate, methyl 3-hydroxy butylate, ethyl 3-hydroxy butylate, methyl 2-hydroxy isobutylate, ethyl 2-hydroxy isobutylate, methyl 3-hydroxy-2-methyl propionate, 2,2-dimethyl-hydroxy propionate, ethyl-6-hydroxy hexanoate, t-butyl-2-hydroxy isobutylate, diethyl-3-hydroxy glutarate, ethyl lactate, isopropyl lactate, butyl isobutyl lactate, isobutyl lactate, ethyl mandelate, dimethyl ethyl tartrate, ethyl tartrate, dibutyl tartrate, diethyl citrate, triethyl citrate, ethyl-2-hydroxy-caproate, diethyl bis-(hydroxy methyl)malonate; aromatic esters having at least one hydroxy group such as 2-hydroxy ethyl benzoate, 2-hydroxy ethyl salicylate, methyl-4-(hydroxy methyl) benzoate, methyl-4-hydroxy benzoate, ethyl-3-hydroxy benzoate, 4-methyl salicylate, ethyl salicylate, phenyl salicylate, propyl-4-hydroxy benzoate, phenyl-3-hydroxy naphthanoate, monoethylene glycol monobenzoate, diethylene glycol benzoate, triethylene glycol benzoate; alicyclic esters having at least one hydroxy group such as lactone, and others. The amount of the ester compound containing at least one hydroxy group should be 0.001 ~ 5 mol per mole of magnesium, or preferably 0.01 ~ 2 mol per mole of magnesium.

For the silicon compound containing an alkoxy group, the other electron donor in the present invention, a compound having a general formula of $R^1_nSi(OR^2)_{4-n}$ (here, R^1 and R^2 represents a hydrocarbon having 1 ~ 12 carbons, and n for an integer of 0 ~ 3) is preferable.

5 More specifically, it includes dimethyldimethoxy silane, dimethyldiethoxy silane, diphenyldimethoxy silane, methylphenyldimethoxy silane, diphenyldiethoxy silane, ethyltrimethoxy silane, vinyltrimethoxy silane, methyltrimethoxy silane, phenyltrimethoxy silane, methyltriethoxy silane, ethyltriethoxy silane, vinyltriethoxy silane, butyltriethoxy silane, phenyltriethoxy silane, ethyltriisopropoxy silane, vinyltributoxy silane, ethyl silicate, butyl
10 silicate, methyltriaryloxy silane, etc. The amount of such compound should be 0.05 ~ 3 mol per mole of magnesium, or more preferably 0.1 ~ 2 mol per mole of magnesium.

As for the temperature for the contact-reaction of a magnesium solution, an ester compound containing at least one hydroxy group, and an alkoxy silicon compound, the temperature of 0 ~
15 100°C is appropriate, or more preferably 10 ~ 70°C.

In the process, the catalyst particles are recrystallized by reacting the magnesium compound solution with a mixture of a liquid titanium compound of a general formula of $Ti(OR)_aX_{4-a}$ (R-stands for an alkyl group with 1 ~ 10 carbons; X for a halogen atom; and "a" for a
20 natural number of 0 to 4) and a silicon compound of a general formula of R_nSiCl_{4-n} (here R stands for hydrogen; or an alkyl, alkoxy, haloalkyl, or aryl group having 1 to 10 carbons; or a halosilyl or halosilyl alkyl group having 1 to 8 carbons; n = 0-3). The types of titanium compounds which satisfy the general formula of $Ti(OR)_aX_{4-a}$ include ~~4-halogenated titanium~~ titanium tetrahalide such as $TiCl_4$, $TiBr_4$, and TiI_4 ; ~~3-halogenated alkoxy-titanium~~ alkoxy
25 titanium trihalide such as $Ti(OCH_3)Cl_3$, $Ti(OC_2H_5)Cl_3$, $Ti(OC_2H_5)Br_3$, and $Ti(O(i-C_4H_9))Br_3$; ~~2-halogenated alkoxy-titanium~~ alkoxy titanium dihalide compounds such as $Ti(OCH_3)_2Cl_2$, $Ti(OC_2H_5)_2Cl_2$, $Ti(O(i-C_4H_9))_2Cl_2$, and $Ti(OC_2H_5)_2Br_2$; and tetra-alkoxy titaniums such as $Ti(OCH_3)_4$, $Ti(OC_2H_5)_4$, and $Ti(OC_4H_9)_4$. A mixture of the above titanium compounds can also
30 be used in the present invention. However, the preferable titanium compounds are those containing halogen, or more preferably titanium tetrachloride.

The types of silicon compounds satisfying the above general formula of R_nSiCl_{4-n} include silicon tetrachloride; trichlorosilanes such as trichlorosilane, methyltrichlorosilane, ethyltrichlorosilane, phenyltrichlorosilane; dichlorosilanes such as dimethylchlorosilane, dimethyldichlorosilane, diethyldichlorosilane, di-phenyldichlorosilane, and methylphenyldichlorosilane; monochlorosilanes such as trimethylchlorosilane; and a mixture of these silicon compounds can also be used in the present invention, or more preferably silicon tetrachloride can be used.

The amount of the mixture of a titanium compound and a silicon compound used during the re-crystallization of the magnesium compound solution is appropriately 0.1 ~ 200 mol per mole of the ~~halogenated-magnesium~~ magnesium halide compound, preferably 0.1 ~ 100 mol, or more preferably 0.2 ~ 80 mol. The molar ratio of a titanium compound to a silicon compound in the mixture is appropriately 0.05 ~ 0.95, or more preferably 0.1 ~ 0.8. When the magnesium compound solution is reacted with the mixture of a titanium compound and a silicon compound, the shape and the size of the resultant re-crystallized solid constituents vary a great deal according to the reaction conditions. In order to obtain the target size of the catalyst and the size and distribution of the polymers, as intended by the present invention, it is advantageous to maintain the above mixture amounts for said titanium and silicon compounds, as well as their mix ratios. If it is outside of the above range, it will be difficult to obtain the results as intended. The reaction of the magnesium compound with the mixture of a titanium compound and a silicon compound should be carried out preferably at a sufficiently low temperature to result in formation of solid constituents. More preferably, the reaction should be carried out by contact-reaction at $-70 \sim 70^\circ\text{C}$, or most preferably at $-50 \sim 50^\circ\text{C}$. After the contact-reaction the reacting temperature is slowly raised for sufficient reaction for the duration of 0.5 ~ 5 hours at $50 \sim 150^\circ\text{C}$.

The particles of the solid catalysts obtained during the above process can be further reacted with titanium compounds. These titanium compounds are titanium halides, and ~~halogenated alkoxy-titanium~~ alkoxy titanium halide with an alkoxy functional group of 1 ~ 20 carbons. At times, a mixture of these compounds can also be used. Of these compounds, however, titanium halide and ~~an~~ halogenated-alkoxy-titanium alkoxy titanium halide compound having an alkoxy

functional group of 1~8 carbons can be appropriately used, or more preferably titanium tetrahalide can be used.

Further, the solid complex titanium catalysts produced during the process of the present invention can be utilized during homo-polymerization or co-polymerization of ethylene. In particular, the catalyst is used in homo-polymerization of ethylene, and also in co-polymerization of ethylene and α -olefin such as propylene, 1-butene, 1-pentene, 1-methyl-1-pentene, or 1-hexene having three or more carbons.

The polymerization reaction in the presence of the catalyst of the present invention is carried out by means of using (i) a solid complex titanium catalyst of the present invention, comprising magnesium, titanium, halogen, and electron donors, and (ii) a cocatalyst comprising, compounds of organic metals of Groups II and III of the Periodic Table.

The solid complex titanium catalyst constituents of the present invention can be used in pre-polymerization of ethylene or α -olefin prior to the use in the aforementioned polymerization reaction. The pre-polymerization can be carried out in the presence of a hydrocarbon solvent such as hexane, at a sufficiently low temperature, with ethylene or α -olefin under pressure, in the presence of the above catalyst constituents and such an organic aluminum compound as triethylaluminum. Pre-polymerization, by maintaining the shape of the catalyst by surrounding the catalyst particles with polymers, is helpful in producing food-quality post-polymerization shape of the polymers. The weight ratio of the polymers to the catalysts after pre-polymerization is ordinarily 0.1 : 1 to 20 : 1.

The organometallic compound in the present invention can be represented by a general formula of MR_n , wherein, M stands for a metal constituent of Group II or IIIA in the Periodic Table, such as magnesium, calcium, zinc, boron, aluminum, and gallium, R for an alkyl group with 1 ~ 20 carbons, such as a methyl, ethyl, butyl, hexyl, octyl, or decyl group, and n for the atomic value of the metal constituent. As for more preferable organometallic compounds, trialkyl aluminum having an alkyl group of 1 ~ 6 carbons, such as triethylaluminum and triisobutylaluminum, or the mixture thereof can be utilized. On occasions, an organic aluminum compound having one or more halogen or hydride groups, such as ethylaluminum dichloride,

diethylaluminum chloride, ethyl-aluminum sesqui-chloride, or diisobutylaluminum hydride can also be used.

As for the polymerization reaction, it is possible to carry out either gas phase or bulk
5 polymerization in the absence of an organic solvent, or liquid slurry polymerization in the presence of an organic solvent. These polymerization methods, however, are carried out in the absence of oxygen, water, or other compounds that may act as catalytic poison.

The concentration of the solid complex titanium compound (i) with respect to the
10 polymerization system, in the case of a liquid phase slurry polymerization, is approximately 0.001 ~ 5 mmol in terms of the titanium atom of the catalyst per one liter of the solvent, or more preferably approximately 0.001 ~ 0.5 mmol. As for the solvent, the following compounds or the mixtures thereof can be used: alkanes or cycloalkanes such as pentane, hexane, heptane, n-octane, isooctane, cyclohexane, or methylcyclohexane; alkylaromatic such as toluene, xylene,
15 ethylbenzene, isopropylbenzene, ethyltoluene, n-propylbenzene, or diethylbenzene; and halogenated aromatics such as chlorobenzene, chloronaphthalene, or ortho-dichlorobenzene.

In the case of gas phase polymerization, the amount of the solid complex titanium catalyst
(i) should be approximately 0.001 ~ 5 mmol in terms of the titanium atom of the catalyst per one
20 liter of the polymerization reactant, preferably approximately 0.001 ~ 1.0 mmol, or more preferably approximately 0.01 ~ 0.5 mmol.

The preferable concentration of the organometallic compound (ii) is about 1 - 2,000 mol, as
calculated by the aluminum atoms, per mole of the titanium atoms in the catalyst (i), or more
25 preferably about 5 ~ 500 mol.

To secure a high reaction rate of polymerization, the polymerization herein is carried out at
a sufficiently high temperature, regardless of the polymerization manufacturing process. Generally, the temperature of approximately 20 ~ 200°C is appropriate, or more preferably
30 approximately 20 ~ 95°C. The appropriate pressure of monomers at the time of polymerization is the atmospheric to 100 atm, or more preferably 2 ~ 50 atm.

In the present invention, in order to evaluate the hydrogen reactivity of the catalyst, the changes in the molecular weight according to the amount of hydrogen at the time of polymerization are shown as a melt index (ASTM D 1238), the index generally known in the art. The value of the melt index generally becomes greater as the molecular weight decreases.

5

The products obtained by the method of polymerization of the present invention are solid ethylene homogeneous polymers or the copolymers of ethylene and α -olefin, which have excellent bulk density and fluidity. Since the polymer yields are sufficiently high, there is no need for the removal of the catalyst residues.

10

The present invention is further described by means of the examples and comparative examples as below but should not be confined or limited to these examples.

15 Example 1

Production of catalyst

A solid complex titanium catalyst was produced by means of the following three steps:

20

(i) Step: Production of magnesium solution

Into a 1.0L reactor equipped with a mechanical stirrer, replaced with nitrogen atmosphere, 9.5 g of $MgCl_2$ and 400 ml of decane were placed therein. After they were stirred at 300 rpm, 60 ml of 2-ethyl hexanol was added thereto. The temperature was raised to 120 °C, and then the reaction was allowed to continue for three hours. The homogenous solution, which was obtained after the reaction, was cooled to room temperature (25°C).

25

30

(ii) Step : Contact-reaction of a magnesium solution, an ester containing a hydroxy group and an alkoxy boron compound

To the magnesium solution, cooled to room temperature as above, 1.2 ml of 2-hydroxyethyl methacrylate and 10 ml (45 mmol) of silicon tetraethoxide were added, and then the reaction was allowed to continue for an hour.

5 (iii) Step : Treatment of a mixture of a titanium compound and a silicon compound

After cooling the above solution to room temperature (25°C), a solution mixture of 30 ml of titanium tetrachloride and 30 ml of silicon tetrachloride was dripped into the above solution for one hour. After the completion of the dripping process, the temperature of
10 the reactor was raised to 90°C while stirring, after which was maintained at that temperature for one hour. After stopping the stirring, the supernatant of the solution was removed, and to the remaining solid layer was added 300 ml of decane and 100 ml of titanium tetrachloride in sequence. There, the temperature was raised to 100°C and
15 maintained thereat for two hours. After the reaction, the reactor was cooled to room temperature and the washing of the resulting solid product with 400ml of hexane was repeated until the removal of free unreacted titanium chloride. The titanium content of the solid catalyst so produced was 3.6%.

20 Polymerization

A 2-L high-pressure reactor was dried in an oven and assembled while still hot. In order to make the inside of the reactor nitrogen atmosphere, nitrogen and vacuum were alternatively manipulated three times in the reactor. To the reactor was added 1,000 ml of n-hexane, after which 2 mmols of triethylaluminum and a solid catalyst by 0.03 mmol in terms
25 of the titanium atoms were added thereto. Then, 2000 ml of hydrogen was added. The temperature was raised to 80°C while stirring at 700 rpm. The pressure of ethylene was adjusted to 80 psi, and the polymerization was allowed to continue for an hour. After the polymerization, the temperature of the reactor was lowered to room temperature, and a large amount of ethanol was added to stop the polymerization. The polymer thus produced was
30 collected by separation and was dried in an oven at 50°C for at least six hours, whereby polyethylene was obtained in the form of white powder.

The polymerization activity (kg of polyethylene divided by mmol of Ti) was calculated as the weight (kg) ratio of the polymer as produced per the amount of the catalysts so used (mmol of Ti). The results of the polymerization are shown in Table 1, together with the bulk density (g/ ml) of the polymers and the melt index (g/10 minutes).

5

Example 2

The catalyst was prepared the same as in Example 1, except that in Step (ii) of Example 1, the temperature of the magnesium solution was adjusted to room temperature (25°C). The titanium content of the catalyst thus produced was 3.2 %. The polymerization was carried out as in Example 1, and the results thereof are shown in Table 1.

Example 3

15

The catalyst was prepared the same as in Example 2, except that in Step (ii) of Example 2, 2.4 ml of 2-hydroxyethyl methacrylate and 10.0 ml of silicon tetraethoxide were used. The titanium content of the catalyst thus produced was 2.9 %. The polymerization was carried out as in Example 1, and the results thereof are shown in Table 1.

20

Example 4

The catalyst was prepared the same as in Example 2, except that in Step (ii) of Example 2, 3.6 ml of 2-hydroxyethyl methacrylate and 10.0 ml of silicon tetraethoxide were used. The titanium content of the catalyst thus produced was 2.5 %. The polymerization was carried out as in Example 1, and the results thereof are shown in Table 1.

Example 5

The catalyst was prepared the same as in Example 2, except that in Step (ii) of Example 2, 1.2 ml of 2-hydroxyethyl methacrylate and 5.0 ml of silicon tetraethoxide were used for the

production of the catalyst. The titanium content of the catalyst thus produced was 3.5 %. The polymerization was carried out as in Example 1, and the results thereof are shown in Table 1.

Example 6

The catalyst was prepared the same as in Example 2, except that in Step (ii) of Example 2, 1.2 ml of 2-hydroxyethyl methacrylate and 15.0 ml of silicon tetraethoxide were used for the production of the catalyst. The titanium content of the catalyst thus produced was 3.1 %. The polymerization was carried out as in Example 1, and the results thereof are shown in Table 1.

Example 7

The catalyst was prepared the same as in Example 2, except that in Step (iii) of Example 2, 30 ml of titanium tetrachloride and 30 ml of silicon tetrachloride were dripped in the period of 30 minutes for production of the catalyst. The titanium content of the catalyst thus produced was 3.8 %. The polymerization was carried out as in Example 1, and the results thereof are shown in Table 1.

Example 8

The catalyst was prepared the same as in Example 2, except that in Step (iii) of Example 2, 30 ml of titanium tetrachloride and 30 ml of silicon tetrachloride were dripped in the period of 2 hours for production of the catalyst. The titanium content of the catalyst thus produced was 3.6 %. The polymerization was carried out as in Example 1, and the results thereof are shown in Table 1.

Example 9

The polymerization was carried out using the catalyst produced in Example 1 and 1500 ml of hydrogen, and the results thereof are shown in Table 1.

Example 10

The polymerization was carried out using the catalyst produced in Example 1 and 1000 ml of hydrogen, and the results thereof are shown in Table 1.

5

Example 11

The catalyst was prepared the same as in Example 2, except that in Step (i) of Example 2, 400 ml of decane was used in the production of ~~magnesium solution~~ of the magnesium solution.

10 The titanium content of the catalyst thus produced was 3.6 %. The polymerization was carried out as in Example 1, and the results thereof are shown in Table 1.

Example 12

15 The catalyst was prepared the same as in Example 11, except that in Step (iii) of Example 11, 40 ml of titanium tetrachloride and 20 ml of silicon tetrachloride were used. The titanium content of the catalyst thus produced was 3.8 %. The polymerization was carried out as in Example 1, and the results thereof are shown in Table 1.

20 Example 13

The catalyst was prepared the same as in Example 12, except that in Step (iii) of Example 12, 20 ml of titanium tetrachloride and 40 ml of silicon tetrachloride were used. The titanium content of the catalyst thus produced was 3.4 %. The polymerization was carried out as in

25 Example 1, and the results thereof are shown in Table 1.

Example 14

The catalyst was prepared the same as in Example 2, except that in Step (iii) of Example 2, 40 ml of titanium tetrachloride and 20 ml of silicon tetrachloride were used. The titanium content of the catalyst thus produced was 3.9 %. The polymerization was carried out as in

30 Example 1, and the results thereof are shown in Table 1.

Example 15

The catalyst was prepared the same as in Example 2, except that in Step (iii) of Example 2,
5 20 ml of titanium tetrachloride and 40 ml of silicon tetrachloride were used. The titanium
content of the catalyst thus produced was 3.5 %. The polymerization was carried out as in
Example 1, and the results thereof are shown in Table 1.

Comparative Example 1

10 The catalyst was prepared the same as in Example 2, except that in Step (ii) of Example 2,
10.0 ml of silicon tetraethoxide was added and 2-hydroxyethyl methacrylate was not used.
The titanium content of the catalyst thus produced was 3.8 %. The polymerization was carried
out as in Example 1, and the results thereof are shown in Table 1.

Comparative Example 2

15 The catalyst was prepared the same as in Example 2, except that in Step (ii) of Example 2,
1.2 ml of 2-hydroxyethyl methacrylate was added and silicon tetraethoxide was not used. The
20 titanium content of the catalyst thus produced was 3.4 %. The polymerization was carried out as
in Example 1, and the results thereof are shown in Table 1.

Comparative Example 3

25 The catalyst was prepared the same as in Example 2, except that in Step (ii) of Example 2,
neither 2-hydroxyethyl methacrylate nor silicon tetraethoxide was used. The titanium content
of the catalyst thus produced was 4.3 %. The polymerization was carried out as in Example 1,
and the results thereof are shown in Table 1.

30 Comparative Example 4

The catalyst was prepared the same as in Example 2, except that in Step (iii) of Example 2, 60 ml of titanium tetrachloride was used. The titanium content of the catalyst thus produced was 4.4 %. The polymerization was carried out as in Example 1, and the results thereof are shown in Table 1.

Comparative Example 5

The polymerization was carried out using the catalyst produced in Comparative Example 4 and 1500 ml of hydrogen. The results thereof are shown in Table 1.

Comparative Example 6

The polymerization was carried out using the catalyst produced in Comparative Example 4 and 1000 ml of hydrogen. The results thereof are shown in Table 1.

Comparative Example 7

The catalyst was prepared the same as in Example 2, except that in Step (ii) of Example 2, neither 2-hydroxyethyl methacrylate nor silicon tetraethoxide was used, and in Step (iii) 60 ml of titanium tetrachloride was used. The titanium content of the catalyst thus produced was 4.1 %. The polymerization was carried out as in Example 1, and the results thereof are shown in Table 1.

Table 1
Results of Polymerization

| Example | Amount of Hydrogen (ml) | Activity (kg PE/mmol Ti) | Bulk Density (g/ml) | Melting Index (g/10min) |
|---------|-------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------|-------------------------|
| 1 | 2.000 | 2.3 | 0.36 | 38.9 |
| 2 | 2.000 | 2.1 | 0.35 | 35.2 |
| 3 | 2.000 | 2.5 | 0.34 | 38.4 |
| 4 | 2.000 | 2.3 | 0.33 | 39.2 |
| 5 | 2.000 | 2.6 | 0.34 | 33.1 |

| | | | | |
|-----|-------|-----|------|------|
| 6 | 2.000 | 2.0 | 0.36 | 32.4 |
| 7 | 2.000 | 2.7 | 0.32 | 38.1 |
| 8 | 2.000 | 2.1 | 0.35 | 34.8 |
| 9 | 1.500 | 2.8 | 0.34 | 19.8 |
| 10 | 1.000 | 3.9 | 0.32 | 3.8 |
| 11 | 2.000 | 2.2 | 0.34 | 36.4 |
| 12 | 2.000 | 2.4 | 0.35 | 31.7 |
| 13 | 2.000 | 2.0 | 0.33 | 34.8 |
| 14 | 2.000 | 2.6 | 0.36 | 38.9 |
| 15 | 2.000 | 2.4 | 0.35 | 36.8 |
| CE1 | 2.000 | 1.4 | 0.35 | 12.4 |
| CE2 | 2.000 | 1.6 | 0.32 | 22.6 |
| CE3 | 2.000 | 1.2 | 0.28 | 8.2 |
| CE4 | 2.000 | 2.2 | 0.32 | 18.1 |
| CE5 | 1.500 | 2.9 | 0.32 | 7.8 |
| CE6 | 1.000 | 3.6 | 0.31 | 2.7 |
| CE7 | 2.000 | 1.1 | 0.22 | 7.8 |

* CE : Comparative Examples

As shown above, the production process of the catalyst of the present invention for homo-polymerization and co-polymerization of ethylene is simple with excellent catalytic activity. Further, with the catalyst particles being controlled, high bulk density of the polymer can be provided, and the hydrogen sensitivity is greatly improved..

ABSTRACT

The present invention relates to a catalyst for homo-polymerization or co-polymerization of
5 ethylene, or more particularly to a solid complex titanium catalyst for homo-polymerization or
co-polymerization of ethylene. The catalyst being may be produced by preparing a
magnesium solution by contact-reacting a halogenated magnesiummagnesium halide compound
with alcohol. Reacting said the solution with an ester compound having at least one hydroxy
group and a silicon compound having an alkoxy group, and then reacting said the solution
10 with a mixture of a titanium compound and a silicon compound. The catalyst of the present
invention has high activity with superior hydrogen-sensitivity.